

## Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC)

### Meeting Minutes

April 5, 2016 – 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Capital Event Center, Tumwater

#### Welcome & Check-in

- ELAC Co-chair, Lois Martin welcomed everyone and asked for introductions.
- The [February 2, 2016 Meeting Minutes](#) were approved as presented.

#### ELAC Meeting Structure & Community Agreements

- The ELAC Executive Committee, Enrica Hampton, Regional Advisor Representative, and Lois Martin, Co-Chair, introduced a discussion on the ELAC meeting structure, evaluation and community agreements.

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The role of the ELAC Executive Committee is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Apply a racial equity lens when advising and making decisions</li> <li>○ Lead development of ELAC's Work Plan and monitor progress of the Work Plan</li> <li>○ Plan ELAC meetings</li> <li>○ Nominate ELAC Co-Chairs</li> <li>○ Make committee assignments for tasks that span multiple committees</li> <li>○ Stay abreast of and navigate emerging issues</li> <li>○ Act on behalf of ELAC on agreed-upon time-sensitive issues</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Executive Committee meets with DEL staff at least 3 times between ELAC meetings to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Plan meeting agendas based on Work Plan topics, time-sensitive issues, member requests and meeting feedback</li> <li>○ Adjust meeting structures according to feedback received</li> <li>○ Review meeting structures and revise according to feedback received</li> </ul> </li> <li>• DEL Director, Ross Hunter responded to questions posed by the Executive Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What is your leadership style? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ross described himself as a direct, thick-skinned extrovert. He does his brainstorming out loud. He invited ELAC to speak up and punch holes in his ideas. He wants to hear from you, even if it directly contradicts what he just said. Then he wants to get to the action.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ What do you want to see from ELAC? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This is a room full of smart people in early learning. We want you to think about big problems, policies, how to move us forward. We need your advice. We want to know if our idea is not going to work with for certain ages, communities, regions, etc.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ What is the role of your Leadership team at ELAC? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ELAC gives advice to me. We will have our staff here depending on the work we need advice on. If directors or assistant directors are not in the room, DEL staff speaks for us.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Greg Williamson, DEL Assistant Director of Partnerships and Collaboration led a process to evaluate how ELAC meetings are going by creating a <a href="#">list of what is going well and what are opportunities for improvement</a>.</li> <li>• There was a conversation about <a href="#">updating and simplifying the current ELAC Community Agreements</a>.</li> </ul>
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#### 12 Month Eligibility

- Ross Hunter and Matt Judge, DEL's Subsidy Policy Supervisor introduced a discussion about [12 month eligibility for Working Connections Child Care \(WCCC\)](#).

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the work to transfer WCCC from a welfare program to an education program, DEL must translate the idea of 12 month eligibility into a policy. We must think about how to implement it and balance all of the interests.</li> <li>• DEL is budgeted to provide WCCC to a limited number of households (33,000). When we reach that limit, there will be a waitlist. The 12 month window would begin once a family is approved for WCCC. Spots open</li> </ul>
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## April 4, 2016 ELAC Meeting Minutes

	<p>when families leave WCCC or new spots are created.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A prioritized group [families with TANF, families who carry a TANF sanction and homeless families] is exempt from the waitlist. They receive authorization for care without going on the waitlist. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What does prioritization mean? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Does prioritizing mean we hold a quarter of the slots to be able to have those priority slots or arbitrarily lower the cap to a lower number to have room for the projected priority population? This would mean we deny people care even if we have slots.</li> <li>▪ OR there is a waitlist based on the cap, but if you are homeless, you get in anyway.</li> <li>▪ OR take families off the list in priority order.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ About a quarter of the population that WCCC serves are priority groups.</li> <li>○ Can we prioritize homeless families within the priority groups? The homeless definition is aligned with the OSPI and Head Start definition: homeless for the school year. This results in a higher number of homeless families. Homeless families are part of the priority group because they are a vulnerable population; it is not a legislative mandate to prioritize them.</li> <li>○ What is the Legislature doing otherwise on homelessness? Expanding the budget is not currently happening, so what is the framework for addressing homelessness in the state?</li> <li>○ Currently the WCCC cap is set at 33,000 families. In reality we will probably only hit the cap during the summer months. What is the difference between a budget for WCCC slots and the 33,000 family cap? The current budget is an estimate of what could happen and of the need. If there were a baby boom that could create more need. So 33,000 families is not necessarily a dollar cap. If we go well over the estimated budget then the legislature will have to respond which may change our budget or may change our cap.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Attendance and Enrollment policies are intended to be a financial incentive for providers to encourage attendance, as well as to provide some stability for providers, so they don't lose income.</li> <li>• Consider a review system or protocol to check-in with families after a specified number of absent days.</li> </ul>
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• E-mail any additional comments, suggestions or questions to Matt Judge at <a href="mailto:matt.judge@del.wa.gov">matt.judge@del.wa.gov</a>.</li> </ul>

### Early Achievers

- Ross Hunter discussed DEL's [90% Kindergarten Readiness goal](#) and Rachael Brown-Kendall, DEL's Quality Rating and Improvement System Administrator led an activity around potential Early Achievers barriers.

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 90% goal is intended to drive outcomes for children. It is aspirational and will be very hard to achieve. 90% kindergarten readiness ultimately is not a measure of the child; it is a measure of the system.</li> <li>• The Accreditation Work Group is working on a pilot to look at several accrediting bodies and they are showing that some standards are already aligned. The work group will put together recommendations for recognizing the three accrediting bodies participating in the pilot and will come up with a process to recognize other accrediting bodies.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Small group activity focused on some Early Achievers barriers.</a></li> <li>• There was a question about how providers have been engaged in the barrier conversation. There has not been a provider focused conversation on Early Achievers barriers; however, there are providers who participate in the groups who have given barrier feedback and members of the groups represent providers in a variety of ways (i.e. SEIU).</li> </ul>
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### Feedback Loop

- [The Feedback Loop](#) is one of the information sharing tools of the [two-way communication protocol](#).

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was a question about how the Birth-3 Subcommittee is involved in the birth-3 system design. Currently, DEL staff leads are working on the plan, in terms of thinking about expanding current offerings. We will be engaging with the Birth-3 subcommittee on the aspect of the plan that involves expanding beyond DEL programs. The next subcommittee meeting is in May.</li> </ul>
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### Q & A on State Agency/ Partner and Regional Coalition Updates

- The Council reviewed and asked questions about the State Agency/Partner and Regional Coalition Updates.

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Early Learning (DEL) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Staffing changes at DEL: Shifting 6 people from the Partnerships and Collaboration division to the Communications/Government Relations division. Those include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Caitlin Jensen, Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO) Director</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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## April 4, 2016 ELAC Meeting Minutes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ April Messenger, HSSCO Program Specialist</li> <li>▪ Evette Jasper, State/Local Coordination (SLC) Administrator</li> <li>▪ Deanna Stewart, SLC Program Manager</li> <li>▪ Ashley Palar, SLC Program Specialist</li> <li>▪ Tleena Ives, Tribal Liaison</li> <li>• Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There was a question on the Early Support for Infants and Toddlers Bill (<a href="#">SB 5879</a>) and its implications for OSPI. The bill requires that school districts (and DEL) analyze how they are spending their dollars. A report is due to the Legislature in December 2016.</li> <li>○ There was a question about what work is being done to address the readiness of kindergarten programs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ School readiness is not the burden of the child; it is really about the readiness of the system. Schools are responsible to be ready for children upon entering.</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Full day Kindergarten Guides</a> are now available. The Educational Service Districts are trained in all 3 modules (child development, learning environment, learning centers).</li> <li>▪ Children's Mental Health Access Legislation (<a href="#">HB 2439</a>) passed which includes direction on preparing schools for different learners and behaviors.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Working on an ECEAP Facilities study with DEL. If you or anyone you know are interested in participating please contact <a href="#">Joel Ryan</a> or <a href="#">Katie Warren</a> at <a href="#">Washington State Association of Head Start and ECEAP</a> (WSA).</li> <li>○ Contact DEL (<a href="mailto:slc@del.wa.gov">slc@del.wa.gov</a>) if you know anyone interested in building new Birth-3 facilities.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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### Washington Early Learning Partnership

- Greg Williamson provided an overview of the Washington Early Learning Partnership (WELP).

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Washington Early Learning Partnership includes Department of Early Learning, Thrive Washington, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Department of Health and Department of Social and Health Services. Agency leaders meet the first Thursday of every month.</li> <li>• They track and lead the implementation of the 10 year Early Learning Plan (ELP). Each year they pick priority strategies from the plan to focus on that at least three of the five agencies are working on together.</li> <li>• The <a href="#">2016 strategies</a> include, but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Building a continuum of infant and toddler services and programs;</li> <li>○ Making home visiting available;</li> <li>○ Ensuring developmental screening;</li> <li>○ Supporting social-emotional development;</li> <li>○ Implementing a comprehensive professional development and compensation system;</li> <li>○ Supporting early numeracy and preschool and K-3 instructional alignment;</li> <li>○ Strengthening public awareness and support for early learning; and</li> <li>○ Implementing the Early Start Act.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Currently the WELP is looking at how the 90% goal relates to the ELP goals and how would the <a href="#">Blue Ribbon Commission</a> on Delivery of Services to Children and Families affect the group.</li> </ul>
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### Policy Development & Review and Implementation Update

- Frank Ordway, DEL Assistant Director provided a recap of the legislative session, a look forward to the upcoming session and shared some ideas to better utilize advice from stakeholders.

Discussion	<p>Ideas for a variety of ongoing methods for regularly gathering feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Regular partner surveys on implementation and service delivery.</li> <li>○ Working with regional coalition partners on feedback, including DEL licensors. Would like to allow licensors to take part in community roundtables.</li> <li>○ Online forums posing specific questions.</li> <li>○ Portals and online forms to send DEL feedback directly.</li> <li>○ Developing customer service hotlines—including an Early Achievers Enrollment Desk—having someone answering the phone, MERIT help line—provide technical assistance to staff.</li> <li>○ Include feedback from these forums in policy development.</li> <li>○ Improve training for call center staff, who are directly interacting with providers and parents on the implementation of policies.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Start Act (ESA) implementation timelines: currently there are 750 providers not enrolled in Early</li> </ul>
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## April 4, 2016 ELAC Meeting Minutes

	<p>Achievers, they serve about 25% of families receiving child care subsidies. We are partnering with Child Care Aware, DSHS and SEIU to target outreach by region, population and language. We are currently averaging at two hundred signups per month without coordinated state level outreach.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is there a plan to encourage Licensors to participate in campaign to enroll those 750 providers? Licensors are our primary eyes and ears on the ground and have been traditionally divided from the central agency. DEL will be working to bring them closer.</li> <li>2016 Legislative Session was short session with no budget to set. The 2017 session is going to be much bigger and longer. We are focusing on keeping budget cuts away from services.</li> <li><a href="#">Blue Ribbon Commission on Children and Families</a>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commission has until November to create a recommendation on whether or not to create a new Children's Department.</li> <li>Could the work of the commission serve as an opportunity for ELAC to make collective suggestions on ways to address the problems?</li> <li>Think big: Propose a whole new structure. Think about why ideas that haven't worked before might be more palatable in a new system/structure.</li> <li>ELAC currently only advises DEL, should we say that ELAC's advice is going up to the entire cabinet of agencies that serve young children?</li> <li>You can find more details about the commission including open public meetings on the link above.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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### Professional Development & Workforce Development

- Angela Abrams, DEL's Professional Development Administrator gave an update and introduced an activity on professional and workforce development.

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DEL's Professional Development team is spending time getting community voice and input at regional meetings to work on how to offer professional development and training in accessible and culturally relevant ways. Mallerie Kost recently joined DEL as the Professional Development Outreach Specialist.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Recommendations Snapshot</a>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compensation: pay and benefits (pay, qualifications, quality) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How was the previous career and wage ladder incorporated into this set of recommendations? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The previous ladder had some strong points. With the new recommendations we want to be bold. We want compensation to be raised for everyone.</li> </ul> </li> <li>A concern was raised around retention incentives. People stick with it if they have professional development, compensation, etc., not necessarily for specific retention incentives.</li> <li>How does the Birth-3 piece play in? Work group efforts focus on B-8 in general and to support the variety of teachers, not specifically professionals who specialize on infants and toddlers.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Career Pathways—have made some improvements, still have work to do.</li> <li>Data—system development, workforce data collection and continuous quality improvement.</li> <li><a href="#">Feedback was collected through a carousel group activity and feedback form.</a></li> </ul>
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Email any additional feedback to Eleanor Altamura at <a href="mailto:eleanor@thrivewa.org">eleanor@thrivewa.org</a>.</li> </ul>

### Meeting Follow-up, Closing Remarks & Adjourn

Follow-Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The next ELAC meeting is June 7, 2016 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Pasco.</li> </ul>
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<b>ELAC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE</b> Bob Butts Representative Tom Dent Peter Finch Kathy Goebel Dee Hirsch Ross Hunter Jennifer Jennings-Shaffer Caitlin Jensen Nigel Lawrence Lois Martin Christine Stalie <i>on behalf of Maria Nardella</i> Representative Tana Senn	<b>REGIONAL ADVISORS (RA) IN ATTENDANCE</b> Susan Barbeau Enrica Hampton Wilanne Ollila-Perry Nancy Spurgeon Tiffany Stutesman Sandra Szambelan Jodi Wall Jane Partridge <i>on behalf of Dan Teuteberg</i>
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April 4, 2016 ELAC Meeting Minutes

Laurie Thomas Karla Weeks Dan Torres <i>on behalf of Sam Whiting</i>	
<b>ELAC MEMBERS ABSENT</b> Bianca Bailey RaShelle Davis Senator Mark Miloscia Jennifer Ross	<b>REGIONAL ADVISORS (RA) ABSENT</b> Yolanda Esquivel Amy Kocher